

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 L-03 ACDA-12
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 10506

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, XH, YO, GR
SUBJ: REPORTED GREEK-YUGOSLAV MILITARY DISCUSSIONS

REF: (A) STATE 272526 (B) USNATO 11421, (C) 76 ATHENS 10970
(D) ATHENS 4292 (E) USDAO IR 6-837-0296-77 (NOTAL)
(F) USDAO IR 6-837-0328-77 (NOTAL) (G) ATHENS 232

1. SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN WROTE
NOVEMBER 17 THAT -IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT THERE IS
NO QUESTION OF CONCLUDING A DEFENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE."

2. THIS GOG-INSPIRED DENIAL ALSO EXPLAINED RECENT
EXCHANGES OF MILITARY VISITORS AS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE
"EXCELLENT RELATIONS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND
CHARACTERIZED REPORTS OF OTHER MOTIVES AS "INACCURATE".

3. COMMENT: HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY VISITS HAVE BEEN
UNDERWAY DURING PAST YEAR BETWEEN GREECE AND YUGOSLAVIA,
BEGINNING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF'S TRIP
NORTH IN OCTOBER 1976 AND FOLLOWED BY THE YUGOCLAV
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ARMY CHIEF'S TRIP IN APRIL 1977 AND THE GREEK NAVY
CHIEF'S VISIT LAST MONTH (REFTELS C-F). PRESS SOURCES
SAY YUGOSLAV DEFENSE MINISTER WILL VISIT ATHENS
BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

4. OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A DEFINITE
IMPROVEMENT IN GREEK-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS (REF F) AND SPECU-

LATION ABOUT DEFENSE COOPERATION HAS ACCOMPANIED THESE
PERIODIC EXCHANGES OF HIGH LEVEL VISITS.
WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THE CONCRETE
MILITARY STEPS CITED IN THE POST ARTICLE (REFTEL A), BUT
WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW AND REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS.
MILLS

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